

Westchester County Golf Course IPM Demonstration Project

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Background: Westchester County is a nationally recognized Mecca for golfers. More than 50 private clubs serve wealthy golfers who can afford initiation fees that may run hundreds of thousands of dollars, but there are “not enough rounds” at the county’s five public courses. With 870,000 residents in Westchester and millions more in the surrounding New York City metropolitan area, a 1995 National Golf Foundation study found an unmet annual demand for 500,000 rounds of golf in Westchester.

The county’s five public courses are overwhelmed with demand that far exceeds their carrying capacity. As a 7/25/97 article in *The Reporter Dispatch* noted, “All five courses were built before 1931. That means they have tight fairways, antiquated sprinkler systems, and very small tee areas that are difficult to maintain under heavy public use. While the average private club in the area hosts 22,262 rounds per year, Westchester’s public courses had an average of 47,617 rounds played on them last year [‘96]. And that was a down year because of bad weather and the work being done at Saxon Woods. The average was 54,822 rounds per course in 1995.” County golf course personnel are under intense pressure to maximize usage and minimize pest-related damage, down-time and expenses. With only a third to a quarter of the budgets of comparable private courses, the county’s superintendents and greenskeepers fight hard to implement IPM on courses that were never designed to accommodate such heavy use.

For a printed copy of the entire report, please contact the NYS IPM office at:

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